

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
Birmingham Industrial District
1900 Third Ave. N.
Jasper
Walker County
Alabama

HABS No. AL-909

HABS
ALA
64-JAS,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

ADDENDUM TO
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Please note the address change from previous documentation. Further historical research has shown the following address to be correct.

Location: 1800 Third Avenue, Jasper, Walker County, Alabama.

Date of Construction: 1921

Project Information: This report is based on written documentation donated by the Birmingham Historical Society, reformatted to HABS/HAER guidelines.

Significance: This two-story Neo-Classical Revival style structure, sheathed in grayish-white marble with a two-story, Doric-columned portico entrance, houses Jasper's oldest religious congregation. The sanctuary interior features dark Honduran Mahogany woodwork and a spherical stained glass dome designed by A. Leyendecker and built by Kansas City Stained Glass Company at an original cost of \$10,000. The dome is 34 feet in diameter, 9 feet high and 105 feet in circumference. It contains more than 30,000 pieces of stained glass.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The First Methodist Church was established in 1833 by Dr. Edward Gordon Musgrove. His grandson Lycurgus Breckenridge Musgrove, contributed \$2.00 for every \$1.00 raised by the church during the building campaign which resulted in the present sanctuary. Originally designed to be a brick structure, Musgrove also contributed funds to use Georgia marble. Lycurgus Breckenridge gave the dome in honor of his mother.

On row three in the center section is a plaque denoting the place where President Franklin Delano Roosevelt sat when attending the funeral of Speaker of the House John Sparkman Bankhead on September 17, 1940. Notables attending the funeral included Secretary of State Cordell Hull and Senator Harry S. Truman. To accommodate the President's car, a wooden ramp was built flush with the portico entrance so the President could be delivered to the sanctuary doors.

Sources Consulted

"Historical Highlights of First United Methodist Church, Jasper,"
October 15, 1984

Walker County Site Survey, pp. 54-55

Taggart, Mrs. John K., Typescript, 1986

National Register 2/19/1985